

6.—THE GENUS CORYSANTHES (ORCHIDACEÆ) IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND.

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In Mrs. Emily Pelloe's admirable little book on West Australian orchids, I notice that she has admitted *Corysanthes pruinosa* Cunn. as the only representative of the genus found in Western Australia. With all due respect to the authority there cited, I venture to suggest that this is a mistake. In *Proc. Linn. Soc. of N.S.W.*, Vol. liii, part 2, 1928, there is an exhaustive review of the Australian species of *Corysanthes* by the present writer in collaboration with Mr. W. H. Nicholls, of Melbourne. We had not the opportunity of handling living specimens of the W.A. plant, but were able to examine carefully excellent dried specimens collected by Lieut.-Col. Goadby, in the Sydney and Melbourne National Herbaria. We both agreed that they could not be reconciled with either *C. pruinosa* Cunn. or *C. fimbriata* R. Br. We were of opinion that they belong to a species described in our review under the name *C. dilatata* Rupp & Nich., though not quite typical (*Loc. cit.*, p. 85). Non-recognition of this quite distinct species had been the cause of much confusion in the Eastern States for many years. In Victoria it had been called *C. fimbriata*, and in Tasmania *C. pruinosa*. This probably formed the ground of Mrs. Pelloe's remark that these two species were doubtfully distinct. But in New South Wales, where both Brown's and Cunningham's types were found, there was no question of the specific distinction; and the Victorian *C. fimbriata* and Tasmanian *C. pruinosa*, between which Mr. Nicholls and I could find no difference, were not represented in New South Wales at all. On the other hand, we could discover no evidence of the existence of Cunningham's *C. pruinosa* outside New South Wales, with the possible exception of one very doubtful specimen from Queensland. But Brown's *C. fimbriata* reached us from Queensland, Victoria (where it had been overlooked), and Tasmania. It became quite clear that there was an undescribed species causing confusion; and with the establishment of *C. dilatata*, all the known Australian species are now plainly marked out. One (*C. undulata* Cunn.) had been completely lost sight of for 91 years; but was re-discovered by the writer at Bullahdelah, New South Wales, in 1923, and has since been collected on an island in Moreton Bay. The distribution of the various species, in accordance with the conclusions reached in our review, is as follows:—

<i>C. fimbriata</i> R. Br.	...	Q.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Tas.		
<i>C. diemenica</i> Lindl.	...		N.S.W.*	Vic.	Tas.		
<i>C. pruinosa</i> Cunn.	...		N.S.W.				
<i>C. dilatata</i> Rupp & Nich.	...			Vic.	Tas.	S.A.	W.A.
<i>C. undulata</i> Cunn.	...	Q.	N.S.W.				
<i>C. bicalcarata</i> R. Br.	...	Q.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Tas.		
(Syn. <i>C. aconitiflorus</i> Salisb.)							
<i>C. unguiculata</i> R. Br.	...		N.S.W.	Vic.	Tas.	S.A.	

* Fitzgerald's unpublished *C. Hamiltonii* seems to us to be *C. diemenica*.

In my herbarium there are ten species of *Corysanthes* from New Zealand. Of these, only one is definitely identical with an Australian form: it can scarcely be doubted that Hooker's *C. Cheesemanii* is really, as Cheeseman himself suggested, Brown's *C. bicalcarata*. The majority of New Zealand species seem to be more nearly allied to those of New Guinea and other equatorial areas, than to those of Australia, being furnished with very long filamentose sepals and petals.
